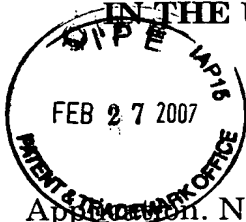


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



App. No.: 10/579,493  
Applicant : Hiroshi OMOTE, et al.  
Filed : May 16, 2006  
TC/A.U. : 2879  
Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No. 1659

Docket No. : 038685.57582US  
Customer No. : 23911

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the specification.